



Howard County Council

George Howard Building
3430 Courthouse Drive
Ellicott City, Maryland 21043-4392

COUNCILMEMBERS

Courtney Watson, Chairperson
District 1
Mary Kay Sigaty, Vice Chairperson
District 4
Calvin Ball
District 2
Greg Fox
District 5
Jennifer Terrasa
District 3

HOWARD COUNTY COUNCIL

Minutes (revised 9/9/08; approved 9/15/08)

Monthly Meeting

September 8, 2008

Chairperson Courtney Watson called the monthly meeting to order at 8:40 a.m... on September 8, 2008, in the C. Vernon Gray Conference Room.

Members present on call to order: Calvin Ball, Greg Fox, and Courtney Watson. Jennifer Terrasa arrived at 9:00 a.m. Mary Kay Sigaty joined by conference call at 9:12 a.m.

Jen Terrasa submitted a written report on MACo's legislative activities. There were no reports from other Council members.

Auditor Haskell Arnold and Administrator Sheila Tolliver presented reports of the activities of Council staff. The Chair commended the Audit staff on the hotline project and the audit of take-home cars.

Joshua Feldmark, joined by Mina Hilsenrath of the Department of Planning and Zoning and Bob Frances, Director of the Department of Inspections, Licenses and Permits, summarized the progress in the green building initiative. Josh Feldmark said that there has been just one application for a residential green building allocation, and it had to be withdrawn because the plan called for building in the floodplain. He recalled that the Administration expected only one or two residential "green allocation" projects per year.

He said that it's too soon to tell about the commercial green building applications as well. Of five site development plans submitted, two involved no buildings, two were too small to reach the threshold, and the fifth was the Robinson Nature Center.

There has been one application for a green tax credit.

Bob Frances reported on his survey of all permits issued since July 1, and he found only 1 business among the 30 applicants that would have been applicable to the green building program. The other projects were much smaller.

Ms. Watson suggested that Josh Feldmark may want to sit in on the school system's meetings concerning their first green building project, Northfield Elementary.

Jim Irvin, Scott Streib, Cheryl Duvall, and Alex Kramer joined the Council to discuss the space plan and renovation project. Mary Kay Sigaty joined the council by conference call for this portion of the meeting.

Jim Irvin said that they have been meeting to discuss moving to an open office configuration. They are still working on the problem of moving the 911 center to the Ligon Building, a project that depends on outside vendors.

Mr. Irvin updated the Council on the status of the Meridian Square Project. The developer continues to look for additional tenants that will allow him to meet the requirements imposed with the budget approval. The County is working on issues related to that lease in the meantime. He reported that this space is contemplated for use in the second phase of the County's building project.

Ms. Watson noted that some Council members visited the transitional space, and she noted that there would need to be a shift in behavior to accommodate to working in cubicles. Ms. Duvall said that the next meeting of the 360 Change Committee, on Sept. 18, will include discussion of this issue and the possible need for training or standards of behavior.

Mary Kay Sigaty noted that the Council may need large meeting spaces to deal with the downtown Columbia development issue and asked if the Banneker Room may be available for occupancy before the rest of the building is complete. Mr. Irvin will look into that possibility, but does not know at this point.

Ms. Watson noted that the DPW and consultants have worked well on the project and noted that the committees appear to be well organized and working to keep people informed.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:25 a.m.